

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 AEC-11

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

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R 220405Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3221

INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, IN, AS

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER INDIAN
NUCLEAR TEST

REF: CANBERRA 3001

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1. AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SENATOR WILLESEE,

ISSUED STATEMENT MAY 21 ON INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST:

QTE SENATOR WILLESEE SAID THAT THE INDIAN EXPLOSION RAISED IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ABOUT THE USE OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. IN THE AUSTRALIAN VIEW SUCH EXPLOSIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF COMPREHENSIVE CONTROLS INTERNATIONALLY AGREED. THE INDIAN EXPERIMENT UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF PROGRESS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN THIS AREA AND THE NEED FOR UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS.

QTE SENATOR WILLESEE SAID HE NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HAD DESCRIBED THE EXPLOSION AS A "PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSION EXPERIMENT" AND HAD STATED THAT INDIA HAD NO INTENTION OF PRODUCING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. HE WELCOMED THESE CLEAR ASSURANCES BY THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

QTE SENATOR WILLESEE SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAD REITERATED ITS STRONG OPPOSITION TO MILITARY USE OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS, THE INDIAN EXPLOSION LAST WEEKEND ALSO HAD TO BE CONSIDERED IN RELATION TO THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY. THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT VIEWED WITH CONCERN ANY ACTION THAT MAY ENCOURAGE OR FACILITATE FURTHER PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. SENATOR WILLESEE SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THAT AUSTRALIA'S CONCERN IN THIS RESPECT WOULD BE WIDELY SHARED IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. IT WAS A MATTER OF REGRET THAT A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, INCLUDING INDIA, HAD NOT BECOME PARTIES TO THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY. END QTE.

2. COMMENT: NO DOUBT DUE TO LONG-STANDING SYMPATHY FOR INDIA IN AUSTRALIA LABOR PARTY, STATEMENT IS MILD AND CAREFULLY-WORDED SO AS TO AVOID GIVING OFFENSE TO INDIA. HOWEVER, FACT THAT WILLESEE FOUND IT NECESSARY TO ISSUE STATEMENT, WHEN ELECTION RESULTS ARE STILL NOT CERTAIN, IS AN INDICATION OF IMPORTANCE WHICH LABOR GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO STATEMENT. WILLESEE COMMENT BEARS OUT PREDICTION IN REFTTEL THAT GOA WOULD FIND IT NECESSARY TO EXPRESS REGRET OVER INDIAN TEST. END COMMENT.
GREEN

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